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Letter dated 10 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to update you on the measures taken by the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2386 (2017) regarding the situation in Abyei.

1. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism held an extraordinary meeting in Addis Ababa on 6 February 2018 and another one on 5 March 2018.

2. The African Union Border Programme completed the first phase of the marking exercise by marking 3 of the 10 crossing points along the corridors of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan.

3. The first meeting of the ad hoc committee on the 14-mile area was held on 27 February 2018 at Gok Machar in the Republic of South Sudan.

4. The Joint Border Commission met in November 2017 for the first time since September 2016. The Joint Demarcation Committee met in the following month.

5. The two sides have taken measures to establish team sites for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

6. Substantial efforts were exerted by the two countries to activate the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

The Secretary General, in his report on the situation in Abyei (S/2018/293), stated, and I quote: "In fact, more progress has been made during the previous five months on the operationalization of the Mechanism than in the previous five years. This renewed momentum must be built upon and represents a compelling argument for the extension of the mandate in support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism beyond 15 April."

I, therefore, would like to kindly call upon the Security Council to support the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the support of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism for a further six months.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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